

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A method for control of a printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

transferring data for the printer or copier between at least one first control unit and a second control unit for the printer or copier via at least one data line;

associating a first identifier with the first control unit;

associating a second identifier with the second control unit;

storing at least one data object comprising a variable or a constant for control of the printer or copier in a storage region of the second control unit; and

associating a third identifier with the data object to enable simplified direct access to the data object via the data line by an external data processing unit, the first, second, and third identifiers comprising network addresses, the third identifier differing from the second identifier.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the network addresses are hierarchically organized and the third network address is hierarchically subordinate to the second network address.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the second network address is determined with aid of the third network address.

26. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24 wherein a transfer path for access to the data object is predetermined by a hierarchical position of the third network address.

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein data of the data object are read out from the storage region of the second control unit by the first control unit with aid of the third network address.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the first control unit and the second control unit respectively form a network node.

29. (previously presented) A method according to claim 25 wherein the third network address comprises a sub-address of the second network address.

30. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein the data object comprises a ~~setting~~ parameter of the printer or copier and a value of the data object specifies a value of the ~~setting~~ parameter of the printer or copier.

31. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the control units are hierarchically organized, the second control unit being hierarchically subordinate to the first control unit, and the network address of the second control unit being hierarchically subordinate to the network address of the first control unit.

32. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein at least one third control unit is provided that is connected with the second control unit via a second data line and is hierarchically subordinate to the second control unit, the data object being read out by the third control unit via the second data line.

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the at least one data line comprises one of the elements selected from the group consisting of a CAN bus connection, a LAN connection, a data line according to a V.24 standard, and a data line according to a SDLC standard.

34. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the transfer over the first data line occurs with aid of the Simple Network Management Protocol.

35. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein routers are provided in the control units, the routers forwarding a read request to at least one network address hierarchically subordinate to the data object.

36. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein a position of the data object in the network is determined with aid of the network address of the data object.

37. (previously presented) A method according to claim 32 wherein commands transferred by a fourth control unit according to a first data transmission

standard are translated by the first control unit into commands of a second data transmission standard, and the data transferred to the first control unit by the second control unit according to the second data transmission standard are translated by the first control unit into data according to the first data transmission standard.

38. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the first control unit is connected with a fourth control unit via a third data line, the fourth control unit being subordinate to the first control unit and has access to the data object with the aid of the first control unit.

39. (previously presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein the first, second and third control units are arranged in the printer or copier, and the fourth control unit is arranged outside of the printer or copier and is connected with the printer or copier over a third data line.

40. (previously presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein the third data line is designed according to a V.24 standard, and the printer or copier is connected with the fourth control unit for maintenance and setting jobs, the data of the data object being read out via the fourth control unit.

41. (previously presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein the fourth control unit comprises a personal computer with software.

42. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the first control unit comprises a base node of the network.

43. (cancelled)

44. (currently amended) A device to control a printer or copier, comprising:

at least one first control unit for the printer or copier with which is associated a first identifier;

at least one second control unit for the printer or copier with which is associated a second identifier;

at least one data line via which data is transferred between the first control unit and the second control unit;

the second control unit has a storage region in which at least one data object comprising a variable or a constant for control of the printer or copier is storable; and

a third identifier is associated with the data object to enable simplified direct access to the data object via the data line by an external data processing unit, the first, second and third identifiers comprising respectively a network address, the third identifier differing from the second identifier.

45. (cancelled)